

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended for purposes of clarifying the invention and expediting prosecution. Independent claims 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 are similarly amended. Support for the amendments is provided by the example embodiments shown in FIGs. 3A-3D, 5, and 6, and described in paragraphs [0034]-[00042], for example, and by Claim 26 as originally filed.

The allowability of claims 14-15 and 17 is respectfully acknowledged. These claims are not amended to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims, because it has not been shown that the prior art teaches the limitations of the base claims. However, these claims are amended for consistency with amended claim 1, from which they depend. Claims 4-7, 10-11, 13, 16, 18-19, and 30 are similarly amended.

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13, 16, and 18-30 are understood to be novel under 35 USC §102(e) over “Muhlestein” (U.S. Patent Pub. 2003/0191810 to Muhlestein et al.) The rejection is respectfully traversed, because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations of the claims are taught by Muhlestein.

The claimed invention provides a unique way of accessing the state information in resources of a PLD. Instead of accessing the state by way of boundary scan or configuration access ports of the PLD (Background), the claimed invention provides the access by way of a virtual file system in which the directories and files have names indicative of resources of the PLD, and access to the state information is provided in response to program calls to file system routines that reference the names of files that indicate resources of the PLD. Muhlestein does not teach these limitations.

Muhlestein’s system provides access for clients to the directories and files stored on storage devices such as disks ([0039]). The described “architecture provides the ability to create and maintain multiple instances of virtual servers, such as virtual filers (vfilers), within a server, such as a filer” (Abstract). Muhlestein’s FIG. 3 shows the layers of a storage operating system for providing access to a hierarchical

structure of directories and files ([0045]). The path through the storage operating system layers may be implemented in software or in hardware such as an FPGA ([0051]). Muhlestein uses a volume identifier/file system identifier (fsid) to determine whether a vfile owns a referenced unit of storage ([0089], [0096])

Muhlestein's system is unrelated to accessing the state information in resources of a PLD. Muhlestein teaches providing access for clients to general information stored on disk storage, and the functions that provide that access within the storage operating system layers may be implemented in an FPGA. Thus, Muhlestein suggests using an FPGA to implement functions of his system. But there is no apparent indication as to any particular method of accessing the state information in the resources of that FPGA. Applicants further note that Muhlestein would not name the directories and files to indicate the resources of the PLD since Muhlestein does not access the state information in those resources.

Independent claims 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 include limitations similar to those of claim 1. Dependent claims 2-13, 16, and 18-21 depend from claim 1 and claims 27-30 depend from claim 26. These dependent claims include limitations that further refine the limitations of claim 1 that are discussed above. Therefore, the Office Action does not show that claims 1-13, 16, and 18-30 are anticipated by Muhlestein, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at 720-652-3733 is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via EFS-Web with the United States Patent & Trademark Office on May 8, 2008.

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